

**The Voter of ODC**



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**General Meeting, Thursday February 16  
Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill, 10 a.m.**

**Local Positions Considered**

League members will discuss and consider our local positions in a work session. Come prepared to inform and be informed. Current positions can be found in the December *Voter* or in the Annual Meeting workbook. A selection of National and State League positions can be found on page 2. We will adopt local positions at the Annual Meeting in May. You can propose new positions or issues you wish to study.

The Hargraves Center is located at 215 N. Roberson Street in Chapel Hill. If you continue west on Rosemary Street from the center of Chapel Hill, turn right at the traffic light past Mama Dips.

**Dinner Meeting, Monday March 6  
Panzanella, 101 E. Weaver St., Carrboro, at 6 p.m.**

**Mix and Mingle with the N.C. Senate and House representatives from our districts.**

The informal setting with a cash bar, pizza, grilled vegetables, olives, fruit and cookies will allow you to speak directly to your own representatives in the N.C. House and Senate about issues important to us all. We have commitments from legislators from all three counties. Judie Burke, State president of LWC-NC, will speak about the endorsement of specific bills to be addressed in the Short Session of the General Assembly, which begins May 9.

**Reservations are due by March 1.** Send your check for \$20 per person, payable to LWV-ODC, to:

Joyce Colaiace  
437 Fearington Post  
Pittsboro, NC 27312

**Upcoming Events**

- Mix and Mingle  
Panzanella  
March 6
- General Meetings  
March 16  
Hargraves Center
- April 20  
Hargraves Center
- May 24  
Annual Meeting

**General Meeting, Thursday March 16  
Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill, 10 a.m.**

Orange County Commissioner Barry Jacobs and Chatham County Commissioner Mike Cross will talk about "Current issues in our respective communities," including how land development, voter registration efforts, zoning changes, and community services affect all living in the Orange/Durham/Chatham area. Last month we heard Ellen Reckhow, Durham County Commissioner, talk about transportation. See page 4 for a summary.

**See the 2006 election calendar on back page**

## President's Message

### Jan Richmond, LWV/ODC

As most of you know, we are revisiting local positions and hope to develop suggestions at our general meeting on Thursday, February 16th. I have listed some national and state positions, which may be applicable to our work. Please review these positions which I have listed below. I have made notes where appropriate. They are not all inclusive, but examples of positions that we may want to consider to support on a local basis. Please bring any new possibilities to the meeting or provide suggestions to any board member.

## National Positions

### 1. Under Citizen's Rights Position, the LWV-US supports an Independent Judiciary.

The League has supported proposals to limit the excesses of the USA Patriot Act, not only because of its threats to individual liberties that are central to our civic life, but also because of the impact that the Act is having on the system of checks and balances that is basic to the working of our government.

### 2. Lobby Reform/Campaign Finance Reform

- Groups whose major purpose is to influence a federal election must register as political committees with the FEC.
- Close the loophole for 527 groups and abolish leadership PACs.
- Cap contributions from lobbyists and lobbying firm PACs to federal candidates to \$200 per election and to national parties and leadership PACs at \$500.
- Ban gifts to members of Congress and their staff.
- Oversee and enforce ethics rules and lobbying laws through an independent congressional Office of Public Integrity and increase the fine for violations.
- Slow the revolving door by prohibiting members of Congress and senior executive branch officials from lobbying contacts or positions for two years after leaving their positions.
- Require lobbying reports and members financial disclosure reports to be in electronic format and made fully searchable on the Internet. Reports should be filed quarterly.
- Extend public campaign finance to Congressional members.

These issues apply to our own State with the current Lobby Reform Bill that was passed by our State Legislature. With this legislation we went from one of the states with the worst lobby laws record to one of the best. Now we need to assure that it is properly enforced. A local position might support the Coalition for Lobby Reform (<http://www.nclobbyreform.org/>) proposal which includes Creating an Independent Ethics Commission that uniformly covers legislative and executive branches. The LWV-NC is part of this coalition.

*(Continued on page 3)*

League of Women Voters  
Orange/Durham/Chatham

P.O. Box 3397  
Chapel Hill NC 27517-3397

<http://lwvodic.org>

### Board of Directors

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408-0444

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806-1410

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(Membership)  
490-0470

Anne Bodner  
(Chatham Chair)  
545-2358

Bessie Carrington  
(Voter Editor)  
489-8668

*(Continued from page 2)*

### 3. Redistricting Reform includes three goals.

- Congressional districts and government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population (one person, one vote).
- Redistricting should not dilute the effective representation of minority citizens.
- Efforts that attempt or result in partisan gerrymandering should be opposed.

The national board has affirmed that all Leagues may take action under the LWV-US positions relating to redistricting and support the above listed goals. The LWV-US states that Leagues that do not now have a position may employ the LWV-US positions immediately, develop their own positions consistent with the overall League goals, or engage in a concurrence process to adopt another League's position.

### 4. The League of Women Voters believes that voting technologies must be secure, accurate, recountable and accessible.

We have worked to achieve this in NC. (See update on page 5) and need to continue to monitor the process which was passed by our State Legislature.

- to ensure that provisional ballots are counted and
- that each vote is traceable via a paper trail.

### NC League of Women Voters Positions

1. The League of Women Voters supports House Bill 433, Earned Income Tax Credit. LWVNC supports an equitable and efficient system of taxation which will adequately fund needed services. (View the bill at <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H433v1.html>)
2. Same Day Voter Registration would allow voter registration to take place during early voting periods. (View HB 851 at <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H851v2.html>.)
3. Voter Owned Elections for the Council of State races is needed. It would create a public financing or "Voter-Owned Elections" option for these candidates. View HB1563 at <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/Sessions/2005/Bills/House/HTML/H1563v1.html>.

### Calendar

February 16	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	10 a.m.-noon
March 6	Dinner meeting, Panzanella, Carrboro	6 p.m.
March 16	General meeting, Hargraves Center	10 a.m.-noon
March 24	State convention, Wilmington	
April 20	General meeting, Hargraves Center, Chapel Hill	10 a.m.-noon
May 24	Annual dinner meeting, Governor's Club	6 p.m.
1st Tuesday of each month	Board of Directors meeting	Varies



## Transportation Issues presented by Ellen Reckhow

At the LWVODC general meeting on January 19, Ellen Reckhow, Chair of the Durham County Commissioners, discussed regional and local transportation issues. For those of us who missed the presentation, these notes from **Molly Beacham** will enlighten you.

### STATE ISSUES

- There is inadequate revenue for the looming transportation needs in the state.
- The state should consider curtailing the practice of diverting NC Highway Trust Fund money for non-transportation purposes.
- Compared with past years, the federal government returns a larger percentage (~90% up from ~80% in the 1990's) of money Carolinians pay into the transportation system. However, the Blue Ribbon Commission on Transportation suggests that the state advocate for a return of as much as 100% of these funds.
- For now, a 3% gas tax (re-calculated every six months by a pre-determined formula) is here to stay.

### REGIONAL ISSUES

The Triangle faces unique problems:

- Commuters enter the Triangle from out-lying counties which do not pay into the transportation system. Furthermore, the formula distributing state dollars does not account for this imbalance.
- There is a need for an additional Triangle-specific revenue source for transit. Some communities use bonds or sales taxes. A land transfer tax would be a less regressive way to add a revenue source. Another possibility is to add toll roads, such as the one being considered between RTP and Morrisville / Cary.
- A dearth of collector roads limits options. For example, high traffic volume on Hwy. 54 at I-40 could be ameliorated with an additional road crossing I-40 and connecting northeast Chapel Hill with southwest Durham.
- With the current sources of revenue and projected growth, there would be an \$8 BILLION gap between triangle transportation needs and funding in 25 years.
- 

### GOOD NEWS IN THE TRIANGLE

- Conversion of the American Tobacco Rail Trail to a bicycle and hiking path between Durham and southern Wake County is nearly complete.
- Ridership on Triangle Transit Authority buses has increased, in spite of fare increases, demonstrating a need for mass transit.
- Light rail advocates are still working hard to demonstrate to the federal government that there is a need for this service. These people want the federal government to consider increased ridership from the new neighborhoods that would go in around rail stations. They will also seek additional state funds to be able to offer to the feds a 50-50 match instead of the 60(fed)-40(local) originally proposed.



## March 19th is UNC-TV Day

Join UNC-TV for an exciting behind the scenes glimpse into the world of public television. Our League will be answering the telephone calls on March 19 at UNC-TV's annual Spring Festival. No selling or soliciting involved ... just answer the phone and take pledges from viewers.

Donation of your time helps to provide high quality programming for our communities and it's excellent publicity for the Orange, Durham and Chatham Counties League.

E-mail me, Beverly Hanly, at [bhanly@aol.com](mailto:bhanly@aol.com) or call 542-1867 to sign up. The shift lasts from 2:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the Joseph and Kathleen Bryan Communications Center in the Research Triangle Park. We'll work out car pools; a meal will be provided. Bring a friend or spouse, all are welcome.

Our limit is twenty volunteers, so act now!

## Voter Services

### Eve Barkley, Voter Services Chair

The voter services committee will be having a planning meeting on February 22nd from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at 30 Englewood Drive, Chapel Hill. All three county forums will be discussed and final decisions for preparation will be made. Your input will be invaluable at this time. If you have any questions, contact Eve Barkley at 401-1843 or [ebarkley@nc.rr.com](mailto:ebarkley@nc.rr.com)

### Can you write?

The League has been invited to write an article about the upcoming Chatham County elections for the *Chatham County Line*. The deadline for submission is March 15<sup>th</sup>. I need volunteers for this task and for writing public service announcements to be sent out to print media outlets in March to publicize our forums.

I know there is wealth of writing talent in the League and this is one way to participate in the forums and provide the public with unbiased and much needed information about the upcoming elections. Help us take advantage of this free publicity. We are expected to produce an article of 450 to 700 words. Julian Sereno is looking forward to our submission and will carry our public service announcements along with many other print publications. All we have to do is produce the material.

Contact me at 919-368-4517 or [ebarkley@nc.rr.com](mailto:ebarkley@nc.rr.com).

## Voting machine update

Both Durham and Chatham counties have voted to purchase optical scan systems from Election Systems and Software, the only vendor certified in North Carolina. To satisfy the requirements of HAVA to provide machines to be used by disabled persons without outside assistance, the Boards of Elections chose the Automark system, which provides a machine readable ballot scanned by the regular optical scan system. These systems will satisfy the requirement for a paper trail in case of the necessity for a recount.

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

### Address Changes:

Nancy Salmon  
534 W. Barbee Chapel Rd.  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517

### Email changes:

Barbara Hardison  
forcats4@mebtel.net

### New Members

Alice M. Gordon  
282 Edgewood Dr  
Chapel Hill NC 27517  
919-933-0550

Orientation for new members will be held Wednesday, February 22, 10 a.m. at the home of Jan Richmond. Please call 408-0444 if you plan to attend.

### New Directory, 2006

The Membership Directory, 2006, for League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham, and Chatham Counties is now available, thanks to the hard work of Betty Mutran and Cynthia Wertz. Of course, changes are always occurring, so be sure to keep your Directory up-to-date with the changes made in the *Voter*. Pick up your directory at the General Meeting or at Panzanella.

The Directory includes an impressive list of Presidents, beginning in 1946. Before the Chapel Hill League expanded to encompass Orange, Durham and Chatham counties, Durham had its own League, which disbanded in 1992. Thanks to the sleuthing of Betty Mutran, here is a list of those Durham presidents:

Mrs. John Ohlson	1947-
Cynthia Reardon	1953-54
Dorothy Boyce*	1954-55
Dorothy Bradsher	1955-57
Gail Bradley*	1957-59
Fran Byrne	1959-61
Adele Spielberger	1961-62
Ruth Mary Meyer	1962-65
Harriet Williams	1965-67
Barbara Smith	1967-69
Margaret Keller	1969-71
Barbara Anderson	1971-73
Jane Rourk	1973-75
Helen Pratt*	1975-77
Jean Bruno	1977-78
Julia Clark	1978-80
Phyllis Noel	1980-81
Ginny Ghiradelli	1981-83
Hildegard Ryals	1983-85
Ann Happel	1985-86
Marilyn Foote-Hudson	1986-87
Linda Naylor	1987-89
Mary Siedow	1989-91
Marilyn Bell	1991-92



## Do you receive a paper copy of the Voter?

If you do, be sure to thank Anne Heuer for her prompt and diligent work at folding, labeling, stamping and mailing the *Voter* each month. Anne is an experienced League member who contributes in many ways. We are lucky to have her.

## Announcements

On Sunday, March 26, the Orange County Commission for Women is sponsoring a theatrical presentation, *Words of Choice*. This play about women's rights and reproductive choices opens a dialogue through theatre. *Words of Choice* weaves together comic and dramatic pro-choice stories from journalism, drama and poetry. The one-hour performance uses an ensemble of three diverse actors (one man, two women.) Tickets are on sale at Weaver Street Markets for \$20. The event will be at the Carrboro Century Center, 101 N. Greensboro Street, Carrboro, N.C. on Sunday, March 26th at 6:30 p.m.

## Still working on that N.C. tax form?

Don't forget the check off box for the N.C. Public Campaign Fund on page 1 of your N.C. tax return. This fund pays for a non-partisan voter guide for the entire state and helps fund judicial candidates who accept strict fund-raising and spending limits. The \$3 will not affect your tax bill and is an important step in providing an independent judiciary in North Carolina. If you file a joint return, both of you and your spouse can contribute.

## New Web address for LWV/ODC

It is just as easy as that — [www.lwvodc.org](http://www.lwvodc.org). It is much easier to remember and easier to tell friends how to access what is going on with LWV. Of course, the back issues of the *Voter* are there, along with the calendar and announcements, in case you used the *Voter* for something else. Cynthia Wertz, the webmaster, is keeping us informed.

## Field Trip to the NC legislature— from Lynne Kane

Last summer I went on a LWV field trip to the State Legislature. Every League member should plan to go to one. Now I know where the front door is and how to get directories to the Senators' and Representatives' offices, even to their chairs on the chamber floors.

Mary Klenz of the State League met our group and introduced us to Bob Hall, Democracy NC chief lobbyist, who talked to us about current pending bills and who stands where on passage, along with succinct insight into important committees.

We visited the offices of Sen. Ellie Kinnaird and Rep. Verla Insko. At lunch in the building cafeteria, a tasty good buy, we received great information from Sorien Schmidt of the Justice Center, a state-funded legislation/litigation/research entity. He alerted us to the importance of the legislative committees, especially the state Budget Process.

We then saw a brief House Election Committee meeting where Rep. Deborah Ross, former head of NC-ACLU, was chairwoman-pro-tem. June Kimmel joined us to talk about her lobbying work for land and farm preservation, important in the Tobacco Buyout. She urged us to acknowledge lawmakers' remarks and votes, however brief. They need to hear public support.

You should plan to go on one of these next very interesting field trips. You'll gain the self-confidence of information. I plan to go to another one myself.

League of Women Voters of Orange, Durham and  
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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization for men and women that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences policy through education and advocacy. Any citizen over 18, male or female, may become a voting member of the League. With that membership comes the opportunity to work on local, state, regional, and national program issues.

*The Voter is printed on recycled paper.*

## Election Calendar 2006

Filing	Feb 13—Feb 28
Registration for primary	Closes April 7
One stop voting begins	April 13
One stop voting ends	April 29
Primary election	May 2
2d primary if needed	May 30
Registration for general election	Closes October 13
One stop voting begins	October 19
One stop voting ends	November 4
General election	November 7